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Farm Broadcasters Letter

Letter No. 2270

CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

July 10, 1986

OPTION TO
EXTEND LOANS

Producers holding Commodity Credit Corporation loans on 1985 crops of feed grains, rye, soybeans and wheat, at their option, may extend the loans for 12 months, according to Sec'y of Agriculture Richard Lyng. The action was taken to encourage producers to take advantage of all available on-farm storage space in preparation for the projected large grain harvests this fall. The action would also give additional marketing flexibility to producers who have outstanding or unsettled matured loans on those 1985 crops.

OCT.-MAY
EXPORTS
AT \$19.1

U.S. agricultural exports during Oct.-May 1986 totaled just over \$19 billion, down \$4 billion, 400 million, or 18 pct., from the same period a year earlier, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Export volume during the first eight months of fiscal 1986 totaled 78 million, 600 thousand tons, off approximately 17 pct. from just over 95 million tons exported during the first eight months of fiscal 1985. Exports during May 1986 totaled \$1 billion, 860 million, down \$249 million, or 12 pct., from May 1985, and 12 pct. below the \$2 billion, 120 million exported during the previous month.

AG IMPORTS
INCREASED

U.S. agricultural imports for Oct.-May 1986 came to \$14 billion, 300 million, up 6 pct. from the Oct.-May 1985 total, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Imports for May 1986 totaled just over \$2 billion, 20 pct. above May 1985. The overall net surplus of agricultural trade during Oct.-May 1986 amounted to \$4 billion, 800 million, down 52 pct. from a net surplus of \$10 billion during the same period a year earlier.

WHY THE
AG TRADE
DEFICIT?

U.S. agricultural trade experienced a deficit for May 1986 of \$152 million. This is the first such occurrence since Aug. 1971 when exports were delayed by a longshoremen's strike. Except for deficits during strikes, exports have been a surplus since Sept. 1959. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the May 1986 deficit can be attributed to: Stepped up imports of coffee and fresh vegetables, especially tomatoes, and deferred exports due to the speculation of foreign buyers that the new farm bill will cause market prices to drop.

PIGS TO
CHINA

The fifth shipment of U.S. breeding swine to the People's Republic of China has been released from quarantine in China, giving American breeders a stronger foothold in this competitive market, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. A total of 5,351 U.S. swine have been exported to China since an agreement was reached between the two countries in 1984.

SOME CROPS
DO BETTER
THAN OTHERS

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the sharpest year-to-year market declines in foreign trade so far in fiscal 1986 continue to be concentrated in exports of wheat, corn, rice, grain sorghum, cotton, tobacco, soybean oil and sunflowerseed exports. Such declines were only partially offset by value gains in the exports of soybeans, soybean meal, livestock and products, dairy products, poultry products, corn gluten feed, wheat flour and some horticultural products, including tree nuts, wine and other alcoholic beverages, vegetables and fruits.

THE CITRUS
CANKER
BATTLE

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is providing Florida with \$250,000 in Federal funds to assist with survey and regulatory activities needed to contain a new outbreak of citrus canker, according to Sec'y of Agriculture Richard Lyng. In addition, the USDA is continuing to provide Florida with over \$1 million worth of vehicles and support equipment, including computers, radios and office equipment which were used during the last outbreak.

CIGARETTE
USE
DECLINES

During 1985/86, Americans' cigarette consumption declined 2 pct. from last year's 598 billion, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Per capita use was down even more because the adult population was larger. The drop was largely due to higher prices, most of which resulted from increases in manufacturers' costs and higher State excise taxes. In addition, antismoking activity and restrictions on where people can smoke are likely reducing demand. The cigarette output in 1985/86 is estimated at 650 billion, about 2 pct. fewer than last year.

RAIN & GRAIN
IN SPAIN

Hot, dry and windy weather has substantially reduced the 1986 grain production prospects in Spain, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The total 1986 grain production is estimated at nearly 16 million tons, down 13 pct. from the previous estimate and 22 pct. below the record 1985 crop. The adverse weather has particularly affected winter grain crops, mostly wheat and barley. A more favorable outlook is projected for spring planted grains, with 1986 corn production forecast at a record 3½ million tons, slightly above last year's harvest.

U.S. & EC
ON SPAIN

The United States and the European Community reached a compensation agreement that sets an average import target for Spain of 234,000 tons of U.S. corn per month for next 6 months at a lower import levy. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the negotiated levy, while not yet fixed, will be higher than the 20 pct. before Spain joined the EC, and less than the current EC variable levy which has reached more than \$150 per ton, nearly double the world price for corn.

GOOD WEATHER
IN YUGO

Favorable spring and early summer weather in Yugoslavia has boosted 1986 grain production prospects, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The total 1986 grain production is estimated at nearly 17½ million tons, 3 pct. short of the record 1984 harvest. Wheat production is estimated at nearly 5 million tons, virtually unchanged from last year. Corn production is forecast at a record 11½ million tons, 16 pct. above last year's drought-reduced harvest. Yugoslavian corn exports have averaged almost 1 million tons per year.

FROM OUR
TELEVISION
SERVICE

CITRUS CANCER OUTBREAK...The U.S. Department of Agriculture is providing Florida with \$250,000 in Federal funds to assist with survey and regulatory activities needed to contain a new outbreak of citrus canker. Bill Helma with USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service talks about this latest outbreak. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (226)

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY - I...USDA economist Stephen Sposato focuses on current issues facing the European Community, including EC support programs and the overall outlook for EC agricultural budget situations. Vic Powell interviews. (227)

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY - II...USDA economist Stephen Sposato continues his discussion on EC/US trade relations and issues, focusing on EC budget problems and the outlook for European agricultural policy. Vic Powell interviews. (228)

BOVINE BIOTECHNOLOGY...Dairy farming has gone through dramatic change since the 1950's and emerging technologies promise to continue reshaping the industry. USDA dairy analyst Richard Fallert takes a look at these changes and how they affect the future of the dairy industry. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (229)

GAS SAFETY...Many changes have occurred in the past twelve years in gasoline used in automobiles and other gasoline-powered engines. Rollin Schneider, a Federal Extension farm safety coordinator with the University of Nebraska, focuses on these changes and what operators can do to insure safety. DeBoria Janifer introduces. (230)



FROM OUR RADIO
SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1519...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) With interest rates down, the number of people refinancing their home mortgages is up. Brenda Curtis talks with Colien Hefferan, USDA economist, about the do's and don't's of mortgage refinancing.

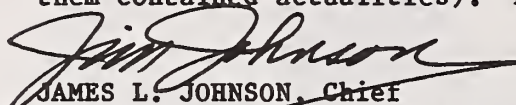
AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1508...(Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; Sodbuster program details; Crop loan extension; Dairy buyout effects; Vegetable producers also feel financial pinch.

CONSUMER TIME #1001...(Weekly reel of 2½-3 min features) The refinancing hassle; The cost of refinancing; Losing weight; Building a U.S. food image; Tales of American folk medicine.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Wed, July 16, Milk production; Thurs, July 17, World tobacco situation, Cost of production report; Fri, July 18, Agricultural outlook report, World coffee situation; Mon, July 21, Catfish production; Tues, July 22, Crop and weather update; Wed, July 23, Poultry production; Fri, July 25, Cattle numbers. Dial the USDA National News Line 202-488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. ET each working day.

OFF MIKE

Bob Givens reports from Amarillo, Texas, he's the new farm and ranch director at KGNC. He joins Radonna Long. Bob was at KFH, Wichita, Kans ... Mike Miller (KOLN, Lincoln, Neb) called to talk about this and that. He'll be among the farm broadcasters traveling to the Soviet Union, July 8-Aug 11. We don't have a complete list of all who are going, but we know Harry Martin (Indiana Rural Radio Network, New Palestine, Ind) is. We received his most recent newsletter, and it featured some interesting "Then and Now" information. Harry was a member of the first group of farmers to visit the Soviet Union in 1958. Now he's going back to see if things have changed. We'll try to get the list of all the farm broadcasters making the trip for a future issue of this newsletter ... We had a phone conversation with Jim Stewart (KFYO, Lubbock, Tex) recently and, among other things, learned that he's got a nice partnership going with this son, Blair. KFYO put Blair on full time April 1, but he's still a student at Texas Tech University in Lubbock. He does the morning shows. Dad handles the noon hour chores. (Nice maneuvering, Dad) ... Back in May we reported that the FFA magazine carried an article about Valerie Parks and the fact that she broadcast on Ed Johnson's AgriBroadcast Net while attending Ohio State University at Columbus. Ed reports Valerie graduated in mid-June and is now working full-time at the network ... We've been having fun looking into the archives file. The June 17, 1966, issue of the newly named Farm Broadcasters Letter (formerly the T-RFD Letter) reported the installation of the first recorder coupler at USDA Radio that would "...send recordings of spot news events and statements to you by phone." Which gives us a chance to brag. We have different machines and more of them, but we're still making spot news stories available....in fact, 774 stories and actualities during the first six months of the year (655 of them contained actualities). Not bad!! (Brag, brag.)


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